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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Kirby Puckett of Scottsdale, Arizona, formerly of Chicago, on Monday, March 6, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Puckett was born on March 14, 1960, and grew up in the Robert Taylor Homes, a housing project on Chicago's South Side; he received no scholarship offers, so he went to work after high school on an assembly line for Ford Motor Co.; and

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WHEREAS, The Minnesota Twins drafted him in 1982, and he reached the big leagues on May 8, 1984; he celebrated his arrival by getting four hits against the California Angels; he led the Twins to the World Series in 1987 and 1991, leaping into walls as their center fielder and swinging the bat with power; in the 11th inning of game six of the 1991 World Series against the Atlanta Braves, Mr. Puckett became the ninth player in major league history to win a World Series game with a home run, hitting a change up from Charlie Leibrandt over the outfield wall and pumping his arms in celebration as he rounded the bases; and

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WHEREAS, He was known for his energetic style and the smile he always wore; he often said that he played every game as if it were his last; he is remembered for his ability to make the players around him better and for his winning personality; for several years after his retirement, he continued to work with the Minnesota Twins organization as executive vice president in an ambassadorial role; and

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WHEREAS, On January 17, 2001, he became a first-ballot inductee into the Baseball Hall of Fame; he was a 10-time All-Star with a .318 career average and played his entire

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1 12-year career with Minnesota, winning the 1989 American League
2 batting title with a .339 average and claiming six Gold Gloves
3 for his fielding; his 2,040 hits in his first 10 seasons are
4 the most in major league history; and

5 WHEREAS, The passing of Kirby Puckett has been deeply felt
6 by many, especially his daughter, Catherine Puckett; his son,
7 Kirby Puckett, Jr.; his fiancée, Jodi Olson, and her son,
8 Cameron; his brothers, Charles Puckett, William L. Puckett, and
9 Ronnie (Melva) Puckett; his sisters, June (Tommy) Sinkfield,
10 Frances Hunter, and Jacqueline (George) Moore; his aunt,
11 Salitha Smith; his lifelong friend, Darryl Hughes; and his many
12 nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; he was preceded in death
13 by his father, William A. Puckett; his mother, Catherine M.
14 Puckett; and his brothers, Donnie and Spencer Puckett;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 baseball great Kirby Puckett, and we extend our sincere
19 condolences to his family, friends, fans, and all who knew and
20 loved him; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
23 sympathy.